

AMENDMENTS

Please amend the present application as follows.

In the Claims

Sub 1 1. (Currently Amended) A method for an enterprise system to evaluate and rank exact and probabilistic search rules for searching a computer database of records according to the an efficiency measure of each search rule, comprising the steps of:
implementing a plurality of search rules that include one or more data elements, wherein the combination of data elements in each rule is configured to identify a target record;
arranging the search rules in a rank order of execution;
executing the search rules according to the rank order to retrieve the target record;
retrieving a plurality of records identified by the search rules as possible matches to the target record;
collecting a plurality of statistical values related to the performance of each search rule executed in attempt to locate the target record; and
adjusting the rank order of the search rules upon analysis of the collected statistics.

a 2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein one of the collected statistical values corresponds to a number of instances that a search rule is executed to search for the target record.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein one of the collected statistical values corresponds to a number of instances that a search rule retrieves one or more records as possible matches to the target record.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein one of the collected statistical values corresponds to an elapsed time value equivalent to an the amount of time spent executing a search rule to retrieve a record.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein one of the collected statistical values corresponds to a the number of instances that a search rule retrieves a record previously retrieved by a previously executed search rule.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein one of the collected statistical values corresponds to a the number of instances that a search rule retrieves a record that was not retrieved by a previously executed search rule.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein one of the collected statistical values corresponds to a the number of instances that a search rule retrieves a plurality of records, wherein the plurality of records are subsequently determined to correspond to the target record.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein one of the collected statistical values corresponds to the number of records of the plurality of retrieved records determined not to be the target record.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the enterprise system determines the efficiency for each search rule according to the collected statistics for the search rule, and wherein the rank order of the search rules are arranged in descending order by efficiency.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein a user of the enterprise system determines the efficiency based upon the collected statistics and arranges the rank order of the search rules according to the determined efficiency.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the enterprise system and search rules are executed in a computer.

12. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium having a program for evaluating and ranking exact and probabilistic search rules, the program comprising logic configured to perform the steps of ~~An enterprise system to evaluate and rank exact and probabilistic search rules for searching a computer database of records according to the efficiency of each search rule, comprising:~~

~~logic configured to implement~~ implementing a plurality of search rules that include one or more data elements, wherein the combination of data elements in each rule is configured to identify a target record;

~~logic configured to arrange~~ arranging the search rules in a rank order of execution;

~~logic configured to execute~~ executing the search rules according to the rank order to retrieve the target record;

~~logic configured to retrieve~~ retrieving a plurality of records identified by the search rules as possible matches to the target record;

~~logic configured to collect~~ collecting a plurality of statistical values related to the performance of each search rule executed in attempt to locate the target record;

~~logic configured to adjust~~ adjusting the rank order of the search rules upon analysis of the collected statistics.

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13. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 12, wherein one of the collected statistical values corresponds to a number of instances that search rule is executed to search for the target record.

14. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 12, wherein one of the collected statistical values corresponds to a number of instances that a search rule retrieves one or more records as possible matches to the target record.

15. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 12, wherein one of the collected statistical values corresponds to an elapsed time value equivalent to an the amount of time spent executing a search rule to retrieve a record.

16. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 12, wherein one of the collected statistical values corresponds to a the number of instances that a search rule retrieves a record previously retrieved by a previously executed search rule.

17. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 12, wherein one of the collected statistical values corresponds to a the number of instances that a search rule retrieves a record that was not retrieved by a previously executed search rule.

18. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 12, wherein one of the collected statistical values corresponds to a the number of instances that a search rule retrieves a plurality of records, wherein the plurality of records are subsequently determined to correspond to the target record.

a | 19. (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein one of the collected statistical values corresponds to the number of records of the plurality of retrieved records determined not to be the target record.

20. (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein the enterprise system determines the efficiency for each search rule according to the collected statistics for the search rule, and wherein the rank order of the search rules are arranged in descending order by efficiency.

21. (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein the a user of the enterprise system determines the efficiency based upon the collected statistics and arranges the rank order of the search rules according to the determined efficiency.

22. (Cancelled)

23-39. (Withdrawn)
